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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,341	04/09/2004	James C. Pawloski	J-3676A	9988

28165 7590 06/18/2007
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EXAMINER	
PASCUA, JES F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3782	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/821,341	PAWLOSKI, JAMES C.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jes F. Pascua	3782

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 April 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See Continuation Sheet*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :7/15/04, 9/8/05, 8/8/06, 2/22/07.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification fails to provide an adequate written description of the first and second closure mechanisms such that the first closing force of the first male and female closure elements is less than the second closing force of the second male and female elements.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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In the second subparagraph of claims 1, 15, 20 and 23, "the first male and first female closing elements" lack antecedence.

In claim 22, the functional recitation that "the first closing force of the first male and female closure elements is less than the second closing force of the second male and female elements" is indefinite because it is not supported by recitation in the claim of sufficient structure to accomplish the function; especially since the male closure element of the first closure mechanism includes two hook portions and the male closure element of the second closure element includes only one hook portion.

Claims that have not been specifically mentioned are rejected since they depend from claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12; 13, 15-17, 19-21 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,578,813 to Ausnit (hereafter referred to as Ausnit '813).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4, 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ausnit '813 and U.S. Patent No. 5,647,100 to Porchia et al. (hereafter referred to as Porchia et al. '100).

Ausnit '813 discloses the claimed device except for the closure mechanism with the male closure element including two hook portions (i.e., first closure mechanism) having the characteristic comprising a clicking feel when the pouch is closed. Porchia et al. '100 discloses that it is known in the art to provide an analogous closure mechanism with indentations. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the first closure mechanism of Ausnit '813 with the indentations of Porchia et al. '100, in order to for the first closure mechanism to comprise a clicking feel when the pouch is closed.

Regarding claim 11, Porchia et al. discloses that the closing force of a closure mechanism with indentations is in a range from about 0.16 to about 0.22 pounds force (column 8, lines 17-25). Furthermore, the closing force of the second closure mechanism of Ausnit '813 would at least be half of the closing force (e.g. 0.08 to a about 0.11 pounds force) in the first closure mechanism due to the male closure element of the second closure mechanism having only one hook portion. Therefore,

providing the first closure mechanism of Ausnit '813 with the indentations of Porchia et al. '100, as discussed above, would inherently result in an overall closing force in the range of 0.20 to about 0.30 pound force.

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ausnit '813.

Ausnit '813 discloses the claimed invention except for the first closure mechanism (18) being disposed nearer a top of the pouch than the second closure mechanism (17). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the first closure mechanism nearer a top of the pouch than the second closure mechanism, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

10. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ausnit '813 and U.S. Patent No. 6,167,597 to Malin (hereafter referred to as Malin '597).

Ausnit '813 discloses the claimed device except for each of the first female closure element being adjacent the second closure female element on the first bag wall and the first male closure element being adjacent the second closure male element on the second bag wall. Malin '597 discloses that it is known in the art to provide the first female closure element adjacent the second closure female element on the first bag wall and the first male closure element adjacent the second closure male element on the second bag wall. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

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at the time the invention was made to provide the first female closure element being adjacent the second closure female element on the first bag wall and the first male closure element being adjacent the second closure male element on the second bag wall in Ausnit '813, as in Malin '597, since applicant has not disclosed that such an arrangement of known closure mechanisms solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the Ausnit would perform equally well with the first female closure element being adjacent the second closure female element on the first bag wall and the first male closure element being adjacent the second closure male element on the second bag wall.

11. Claims 14 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ausnit '813.

Ausnit '813 discloses the claimed invention, especially the first female element being substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline. However, Ausnit '813 does not show the second female element (34, 38) also being substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the second female element of Ausnit '813 substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline, since applicant has not disclosed that a second female closure element being substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline (eventhough the second male closure element is asymmetric and capable of engaging only one hook portion of a symmetric female closure element) solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that Ausnit '813 would perform equally well with the

second female closure element being substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

14. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments

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made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jes F. Pascua whose telephone number is 571-272-4546. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jes F. Pascua
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3782

JFP

Form PTO-1449 (Modified) U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No.	Serial No.
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT *(Use several sheets if necessary)*	J-3676A	10/821,341
	Filing Date: April 9, 2004	Group Art Unit ~~unknown~~ 3782
Sheet 1 of 2	Applicant(s): James C. Pawloski	

PTO JUL 15 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
/J.P./	A1	Re 27,174	09/21/1971	Ausnit	150	3	
	A2	Re 28,969	09/21/1976	Naito	150	3	
	A3	Des. 406,685	03/16/1999	McGinnis	D2	641	
	A4	475,248	05/17/1892	Pugsley	301	128	
	A5	1,746,565	02/11/1930	Sundback	24	405	
	A6	1,959,318	05/15/1934	Sundback	24	205	
	A7	2,354,485	07/25/1944	Slaughter	20	0.5	
	A8	2,916,197	12/08/1959	Detrie et al.	229	56	
	A9	3,038,225	06/12/1962	Ausnit	24	201	
	A10	3,198,228	08/03/1965	Naito et al.	150	3	
	A11	3,237,844	03/01/1966	Hughes	229	53	
	A12	3,265,789	08/09/1966	Hofer	264	95	
	A13	3,338,284	08/29/1967	Ausnit	150	3	
	A14	3,338,285	08/29/1967	Jaster	150	3	
	A15	3,340,116	09/05/1967	Naito	156	92	
	A16	3,347,298	10/17/1967	Ausnit et al.	150	3	
	A17	3,372,442	03/12/1968	Ishimatsu	24	201	
	A18	3,410,327	11/12/1968	Ausnit	150	3	
	A19	3,416,199	12/17/1968	Imamura	24	201	
	A20	3,462,332	08/19/1969	Goto	156	244	
	A21	3,528,600	09/15/1970	White	229	54	
/J.P./	A22	3,537,153	11/03/1970	Ausnit	24	201	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
/Jes Pascua/	06/11/2007

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

/J.P./	A23	3,565,147	02/23/1971	Ausnit	150	3	
	A24	3,565,737	02/23/1971	Lefevre et al.	161	36	
	A25	3,608,439	09/28/1971	Ausnit	93	35R	
	A26	3,715,420	02/06/1973	Kiyono et al.	264	171	
	A27	3,780,781	12/25/1973	Uramoto	150	3	
	A28	3,827,472	08/06/1974	Uramoto	150	3	
	A29	3,840,418	10/08/1974	Sabee	156	244	
	A30	3,841,816	10/15/1974	Herz	425	326	
	A31	3,937,395	02/10/1976	Lawes	229	62.5	
	A32	4,046,408	09/06/1977	Ausnit	285	188	
	A33	4,087,577	05/02/1978	Hendrickson	428	110	
	A34	4,139,664	02/13/1979	Wenrick	428	31	
	A35	4,240,604	12/23/1980	Brach	248	316	
	A36	4,263,079	04/21/1981	Sutrina et al.	156	244.11	
	A37	4,268,938	05/26/1981	Walchli	24	201	
	A38	4,279,677	07/21/1981	Takahashi	156	160	
	A39	4,306,924	12/22/1981	Kamp	156	66	
	A40	4,315,963	02/16/1982	Havens	428	35	
	A41	4,354,541	10/19/1982	Tilman	150	3	
	A42	4,363,345	12/14/1982	Scheibner	150	3	
	A43	4,372,014	02/8/1983	Simpson	24	201	
	A44	4,419,159	12/06/1983	Herrington	156	66	
	A45	4,428,788	01/31/1984	Kamp	156	66	
	A46	4,484,352	11/20/1984	Katzin	383	65	
	A47	4,515,647	05/07/1985	Behr	156	91	
	A48	4,522,678	06/11/1985	Zieke	156	501	
/J.P./	A49	4,532,652	07/30/1985	Herrington	383	103	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
/Jes Pascua/	06/11/2007

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

/J.P./		A50	4,555,282	11/26/1985	Yano	156	66	
		A51	4,561,108	12/24/1985	Kamp	383	63	
		A52	4,561,109	12/24/1985	Herrington	383	65	
		A53	4,562,027	12/31/1985	Behr et al.	264	146	
		A54	4,578,813	03/25/1986	Ausnit	383	65	
		A55	4,615,045	09/30/1986	Siegel	383	5	
		A56	4,618,383	10/21/1986	Herrington	156	66	
		A57	4,655,862	04/07/1987	Christoff et al.	156	66	
		A58	4,665,557	05/12/1987	Kamp	383	63	
		A59	4,672,723	06/16/1987	Hugues et al.	24	587	
		A60	4,673,383	06/16/1987	Bentsen	493	381	
		A61	4,676,851	06/30/1987	Scheibner et al.	156	66	
		A62	4,683,015	07/28/1987	Wagers	156	66	
		A63	4,684,018	08/04/1987	Jarund	206	306	
		A64	4,698,118	10/06/1987	Takahashi	156	499	
		A65	4,701,358	10/20/1987	Behr et al.	428	35	
		A66	4,709,399	11/24/1987	Sanders	383	66	
		A67	4,710,968	12/01/1987	Borchardt et al.	383	63	
		A68	4,727,709	03/01/1988	Zieke et al.	53	551	
		A69	4,736,451	04/05/1988	Ausnit	383	65	
		A70	4,736,496	04/12/1988	Fisher et al.	24	587	
		A71	4,741,789	05/03/1988	Zieke et al.	156	66	
		A72	4,755,248	07/05/1988	Geiger et al.	156	244.25	
		A73	4,764,977	08/16/1988	Wagers	383	63	
		A74	4,765,036	08/23/1988	Iguchi et al.	24	289	
		A75	4,778,282	10/18/1988	Borchardt et al.	383	63	
/J.P./		A76	4,787,880	11/29/1988	Ausnit	493	213	

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/Jes Pascual/	06/11/2007

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

/J.P./		A77	4,791,710	12/20/1988	Nocek et al.	24	587	
		A78	4,792,240	12/20/1988	Ausnit	383	63	
		A79	4,796,300	01/03/1989	Branson	383	63	
		A80	4,812,056	03/14/1989	Zieke	383	65	
		A81	4,812,192	03/14/1989	Woods et al.	156	251	
		A82	4,822,539	04/18/1989	Tilman et al.	264	40.4	
		A83	4,829,641	05/16/1989	Williams	24	587	
		A84	4,832,768	05/23/1989	Takahashi	156	66	
		A85	4,834,554	05/30/1989	Stetler, Jr. et al.	383	100	
		A86	4,846,586	07/11/1989	Bruno	383	9	
		A87	4,854,917	08/08/1989	Mizukoshi	464	111	
		A88	4,859,259	08/22/1989	Scheibner	156	66	
		A89	4,869,725	09/26/1989	Schneider et al.	604	408	
		A90	4,898,492	02/06/1990	Janowski	403	340	
		A91	4,906,310	03/06/1990	Broderick et al.	156	66	
		A92	4,907,321	03/13/1990	Williams	24	587	
		A93	4,929,487	05/29/1990	Tilman et al.	428	163	
		A94	4,964,739	10/23/1990	Branson et al.	383	5	
		A95	5,009,828	04/23/1991	McCree	264	177.1	
		A96	5,012,561	05/07/1991	Porchia et al.	24	576	
		A97	5,017,021	05/21/1991	Simonsen et al.	383	63	
		A98	5,022,530	06/11/1991	Zieke	206	618	
		A99	5,023,122	06/11/1991	Boeckmann et al.	428	43	
		A100	5,049,223	09/17/1991	Dais et al.	156	244.11	
		A101	5,053,091	10/01/1991	Giljam et al.	156	66	
/J.P./		A102	5,056,933	10/15/1991	Kamp	383	63	

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/Jes Pascua/	06/11/2007

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

/J.P./		A103	5,067,822	11/26/1991	Wirth et al.	383	61	
		A104	5,070,584	12/10/1991	Dais et al.	24	587	
		A105	5,092,684	03/03/1992	Weeks	383	61	
		A106	5,138,750	08/18/1992	Gundlach et al.	24	587	
		A107	5,140,727	08/25/1992	Dais et al.	24	587	
		A108	5,141,577	08/25/1992	Porchia et al.	156	66	
		A109	5,154,086	10/13/1992	Porchia et al.	73	818	
		A110	5,167,454	12/01/1992	Woods et al.	383	35	
		A111	5,192,135	03/09/1993	Woods et al.	383	63	
		A112	5,198,055	03/30/1993	Wirth et al.	156	66	
		A113	5,209,574	05/11/1993	Tilman	383	63	
		A114	5,211,481	05/18/1993	Tilman	383	63	
		A115	5,235,731	08/17/1993	Anzai et al.	24	576	
		A116	5,238,306	08/24/1993	Heintz et al.	383	61	
		A117	5,248,201	09/28/1993	Kettner et al.	383	63	
		A118	5,252,281	10/12/1993	Kettner et al.	264	171	
		A119	5,259,904	11/09/1993	Ausnit	156	244.15	
		A120	5,307,552	05/03/1994	Dais et al.	29	453	
		A121	5,326,176	07/05/1994	Domke	383	103	
		A122	5,356,222	10/18/1994	Kettner et al.	383	63	
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